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Consumer Price Index, Honolulu – Second Half 2017

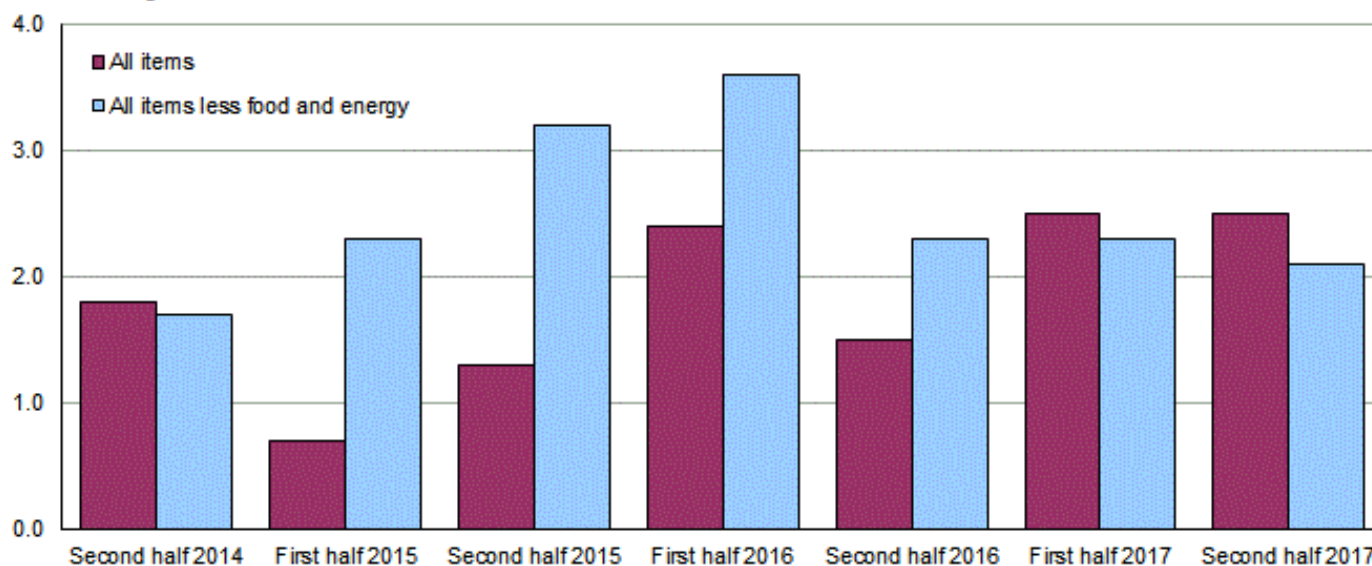
Area prices were up 0.9 percent over the past six months, up 2.5 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Honolulu Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.9 percent in the second half of 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that this latest six-month increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and food. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, six-month-to-six-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 2.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices increased 7.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Honolulu, second half 2014–second half 2017

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 1.8 percent in the second half of 2017. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home increased 2.1 percent, and prices for food at home increased 1.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 3.0 percent. Prices for food at home increased 3.3 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home moved up 2.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 0.6 percent since the first half of 2017. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (1.5 percent). Prices for natural gas service increased 0.2 percent, but prices for electricity decreased 0.5 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 7.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (10.0 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 5.9 percent, and prices for natural gas service moved up 5.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.8 percent in the latest six-month period. Higher prices for shelter (1.8 percent) and medical care (1.1 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-3.2 percent) and apparel (-2.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.1 percent), medical care (2.0 percent), and apparel (1.5 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in education and communication (-3.6 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-2.5 percent).

Table A. Honolulu CPI-U semi-annual and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual
First Half	1.3	2.8	1.2	1.8	0.5	1.1	-0.5	0.7	0.6	2.4	1.6	2.5
Second Half	0.7	2.0	0.6	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.3	0.9	1.5	0.9	2.5

The January 2018 Consumer Price Index for the Honolulu area is scheduled to be released February 14, 2018.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This index will change to a bimonthly publication schedule beginning in January, 2018. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population.

The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Honolulu metropolitan area covered in this release consists of Oahu County in the State of Hawaii.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Honolulu, HI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2017 from-	
	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	2nd half 2017	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017
Expenditure category					
All items.....	266.528	270.738	273.290	2.5	0.9
All items (1967=100)	733.744	745.335	752.360	-	-
Food and beverages	271.712	275.042	279.560	2.9	1.6
Food	272.564	275.787	280.616	3.0	1.8
Food at home	266.448	271.384	275.122	3.3	1.4
Food away from home.....	273.281	274.707	280.542	2.7	2.1
Alcoholic beverages	255.752	261.220	259.531	1.5	-0.6
Housing	286.052	292.629	296.390	3.6	1.3
Shelter	312.050	319.154	324.880	4.1	1.8
Rent of primary residence	305.525	311.278	316.129	3.5	1.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)	323.762	331.757	338.560	4.6	2.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)..	323.762	331.757	338.560	4.6	2.1
Fuels and utilities.....	322.866	334.583	334.083	3.5	-0.1
Household energy	249.006	264.000	263.159	5.7	-0.3
Energy services.....	244.282	259.724	258.524	5.8	-0.5
Electricity	242.151	257.634	256.327	5.9	-0.5
Utility (piped) gas service	239.650	252.148	252.741	5.5	0.2
Household furnishings and operations	147.588	148.676	143.874	-2.5	-3.2
Apparel	112.703	117.145	114.379	1.5	-2.4
Transportation	212.573	216.836	218.455	2.8	0.7
Private transportation	204.688	211.293	215.240	5.2	1.9
Motor fuel	208.672	226.015	229.494	10.0	1.5
Gasoline (all types).....	214.041	231.836	235.408	10.0	1.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(2).....	224.402	242.707	246.122	9.7	1.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(2)(3).....	171.959	188.020	191.947	11.6	2.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(2).....	192.393	209.728	214.345	11.4	2.2
Medical care	401.624	405.254	409.514	2.0	1.1
Recreation(4).....	125.288	125.662	125.900	0.5	0.2
Education and communication(4).....	149.465	144.769	144.051	-3.6	-0.5
Other goods and services	485.863	489.868	488.111	0.5	-0.4
Commodity and service group					
All Items.....	266.528	270.738	273.290	2.5	0.9
Commodities	197.708	201.434	202.536	2.4	0.5
Commodities less food & beverages.....	152.497	156.532	155.435	1.9	-0.7
Nondurables less food & beverages	187.833	194.327	192.994	2.7	-0.7
Durables	113.241	114.473	113.636	0.3	-0.7
Services.....	326.461	330.994	334.938	2.6	1.2
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	259.247	263.484	265.944	2.6	0.9
All items less shelter.....	246.799	249.726	250.864	1.6	0.5
Commodities less food	156.403	160.502	159.382	1.9	-0.7
Nondurables	231.292	235.999	237.854	2.8	0.8
Nondurables less food.....	192.057	198.512	197.156	2.7	-0.7
Services less rent of shelter(1).....	344.221	344.566	345.578	0.4	0.3
Services less medical care services.....	318.617	323.417	327.338	2.7	1.2
Energy	225.380	241.406	242.794	7.7	0.6
All items less energy	270.761	274.341	276.976	2.3	1.0
All items less food and energy	272.237	275.934	278.019	2.1	0.8

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes

- (1) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.
- (2) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (3) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
- (4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- Data not available.